

Appl. No. 09/826,690
Amendment
Reply to Office Action dated April 25, 2005

Docket No. 6994-1

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting test takers who have applied for admission to at least one academic institution ~~applicants into an academic institution, said method~~ comprising the steps of:

selecting a pool of standardized test takers that includes some test takers that did not initially apply for admission to a first academic institution;

identifying from said pool of test takers, those test takers who have applied for admission to at least one second academic institution, but have not received an offer for but do not have acceptable qualifications for, admission to any one of said at least one second academic institutions, wherein said identifying step is enabled by a computer product;

providing an admissions program a program for admission to the first academic institution, wherein the program for admission that includes an abbreviated academic program;

subjecting test takers that enroll in the program for admission to at least one examination during said abbreviated academic program, each enrolled test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination; and [.]

admitting into the first academic institution those enrolled test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step of ~~providing an admission program with an abbreviated academic program~~ further comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of standardized test scores and grade point averages (GPAs) for said pool of test takers; and [.]

identifying from said pool of test takers, those test takers having a standardized test score and GPA falling within said shifting range.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said subjecting step comprises:

administering at least one examination to said enrolled test takers during said abbreviated academic program;

scoring said at least one examination based on a calibrated grading process; and [[.]]

for each enrolled test taker, combining scores for said at least one examination, said combined scores forming a composite score.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of admitting into the first academic institution those enrolled test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria comprises the step of, admitting into the particular academic institution those enrolled test takers whose composite score exceeds a pre-determined composite score.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said abbreviated academic program further comprising comprises the step of providing asynchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said enrolled test takers.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of providing asynchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering electronic instructional content to remotely situated enrolled ~~conditionally~~ admitted test takers;

receiving classroom work-product from said remotely situated enrolled ~~conditionally~~ admitted test takers; and

forwarding said received classroom work-product to at least one instructor.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said abbreviated academic program further comprising comprises the step of providing synchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said enrolled test takers.

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8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said step of providing synchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering on-line instructional content to remotely situated enrolled test takers; and [[.]]
moderating on-line participation between said remotely situated enrolled test takers and at least one instructor.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said subjecting step further comprises the steps of:

delivering ~~a final~~ at least one on-line examination ~~on-line~~ to said enrolled test takers situated in a remote testing facility;
proctoring said examination at said remote testing facility; and [[.]]
factoring resulting scores for said ~~final~~ at least one on-line examination into said composite score.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first academic institution is a law school and said each of said at least one second academic institutions are law schools; and

~~wherein said identifying selecting step comprises, selecting a pool of recent the step of compiling a list of Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) test takers who have applied for admission to at least one law school, but have not received an offer of admission to any one of said at least one law schools .~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said identifying step of ~~providing an admissions program that includes an abbreviated academic program~~ comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of LSAT scores and undergraduate grade point averages (UGPAs) for said test takers;

identifying those LSAT test takers having an LSAT score and UGPA falling within said shifting range; and [[.]]

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~~offering admitting~~ said identified test takers the opportunity to enroll in ~~[[to]]~~ an abbreviated law school program at a first law school, wherein an abbreviated law school program ~~[[that]]~~ is part of said program for admissions ~~the admissions program~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said subjecting step comprises:

administering at least one law school examination to said enrolled LSAT test takers during said an abbreviated academic law school program;

scoring said at least one law school examination based on a calibrated grading process; and ~~[[.]]~~

for each enrolled LSAT test taker, combining scores for said at least one law school examination, said combined scores forming a composite score.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting test takers who have applied for admission to at least one academic institution ~~applicants into an a particular academic institution~~, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a pool of standardized test takers that includes some test takers that did not initially apply for admission to a first academic institution;

identifying ~~among a selection from said pool~~ of standardized test takers, those test takers who have applied for admission to ~~at least one~~ a plurality of second academic institution and have received more rejections than offers of admission from said ~~at least one~~ plurality of second academic institutions, wherein said identifying step is enabled by a computer product;

extending to said identified test takers an opportunity to enter ~~[[the]]~~ a program for admissions process to said first academic institution and as part thereof, engage in an abbreviated academic program;

enrolling at least one of said identified test takers who have accepted said entry into the admissions process at said academic institution;

subjecting said at least one enrolled test taker to at least one examination; and ~~[[.]]~~

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grading said at least one examination, wherein said grading process assigns producing an examination score for said at least one enrolled test taker, whereby enrolled test takers achieving an examination score which exceeds a pre-defined level are enrolled in the academic institution.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said identifying extending step comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of standardized test scores and grade point averages (GPAs) for said test takers;

selecting particular test takers having a standardized test score and GPA falling within said shifting range; ~~and,~~

~~extending to said selected particular test takers an offer of entry into the admission process.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said grading step comprises the steps of:

calibrating graders ~~[[in a]]~~ using a calibrated grading process; and,

subjecting said at least one examination to said calibrated grading process, wherein a score is assigned to each of said at least one examinations; and

calculating an examination score for each enrolled test taker by combining each enrolled test taker's scores for each of said at least one examination to form a composite score.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing asynchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said enrolled test takers.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of providing asynchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering electronic instructional content to remotely situated ~~conditionally~~ enrolled test takers;

receiving classroom work-product from said remotely situated enrolled test takers; and

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forwarding said received classroom work-product to at least one instructor.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing synchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said enrolled test takers.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 ~~[[13]]~~, wherein said step of providing synchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering on-line instructional content to remotely situated enrolled test takers; and ~~[[.]]~~
moderating on-line participation between said remotely situated enrolled test takers and at least one instructor.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said ~~identifying~~ selecting step comprises the steps of:

reviewing ~~a selection~~ said pool of standardized test takers who have taken one of the law school admissions test (LSAT), medical college admissions test (MCAT), dental admissions test (DAT), veterinary college admissions test (VCAT), pharmacy college admissions test (PCAT), allied health programs admissions test (AHPAT), graduate record examination (GRE), and the graduate management admission test (GMAT); and~~[[.]]~~

wherein said identifying step comprises, identifying among said pool of standardized test takers ~~selection~~, those test takers who have applied for admission to at least one graduate school and have received more rejections than offers of admission from said at least one graduate schools.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting test takers ~~applicants~~ into [an] a first academic institution comprising the steps of:

selecting a pool of standardized test takers that includes some test takers that did not initially apply for admission to a first academic institution;

compiling from said pool of standardized test takers a list of standardized test takers who have applied for admission to at least one second academic institution, but who do not meet the

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criteria for admission to any one of said at least one second academic institutions, wherein said compiling step is enabled by a computer product;

electronically registering selected ones of said test takers in an abbreviated academic program;

administering at least one examination over a computer communications network to said registered test takers during said abbreviated academic program, each registered test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination; and [.]

electronically enrolling in the first academic institution those registered test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria.

22. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program for admitting applicants ~~to into an a~~ first academic institution, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

compiling a list of standardized test takers who have applied for admission to at least one second academic institution, but have not received an offer of admission to any one of said at least one second academic institutions, wherein some of the test takers in the list did not initially apply for admission to the first academic institution;

electronically registering selected ones of said test takers in an abbreviated academic program at the first academic institution;

administering at least one examination over a computer communications network to said registered test takers during said abbreviated academic program, each registered test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination; and [.]

electronically enrolling in the first academic institution those registered test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria.